

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A tube comprising a blend of 25-35 weight percent polystyrene having a melt flow index of 7-11 g/10 min and a styrene-butadiene rubber block copolymer having a melt flow index of 10-12 g/10 min, said tube having diminished leakage or plastic deformation compared to identical tubes of pure styrene-butadiene copolymer.

2. (original) The tube of Claim 1 which is a round bottom tube.

3. (original) The tube of Claim 1 which is a centrifuge tube.

4. (original) The tube of Claim 1 which is sterilized with gamma radiation.

5. (original) The tube of Claim 4 wherein said radiation has a maximum dose of 23 Kgy.

6. (original) A centrifuge tube comprising a blend of 28-32 weight percent of polystyrene having a melt flow index of 7-11 g/10 min and 72-68 weight percent of styrene-butadiene rubber block copolymer having a melt flow index of 10-12g/ min, said tube having diminished leakage or plastic deformation compared to an identical tube of pure styrene-butadiene copolymer.

7. (currently amended) A centrifuge tube comprising a blend of 29.5 -30.5 weight percent of polystyrene having a melt flow index of 7-11g/10 min and 70.5-69.5 weight percent of styrene-butadiene rubber block copolymer having a melt flow index of 10-12g/10 min, said tube having diminished leakage and plastic deformation compared to an identical tube of pure styrene-butadiene copolymer.

8. (original) An assembly comprising the tube of Claim 1 and a hermetically sealed closure therefor.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been currently amended to correct an informality noted by the Examiner.

Applicants also enclosed herewith a newly executed declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a). The Examiner has noted that the previously filed declaration was defective for not identifying the application by application number and filing date.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment has been made in good faith, that no new matter has been added and that the Claims are in proper form for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 24, 2003

By: Nanette S. Thomas  
Nanette S. Thomas  
Reg. No. 33,310  
Attorney for Applicants

Becton, Dickinson and Company  
1 Becton Drive  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880  
(201) 847-7049

Doc. No. 70579

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231	
ON: <u>October 27, 2003</u>	
BY: <u>Susan R. Wagner</u> <u>Susan R. Wagner</u> (SIGNATURE)	<u>10/27/03</u> (DATE)